

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 075 319

SO 005 687

TITLE Country Education Profiles: Albania.
INSTITUTION International Bureau of Education, Geneva
(Switzerland) .
PUB DATE Jun 72
NOTE 10p.

EDRS PRICE MF-\$0.65 HC-\$3.29
DESCRIPTORS Adult Education; *Comparative Education; Demography;
*Educational Administration; *Educational Policy;
Educational Practice; *Educational Programs;
Elementary Education; Foreign Countries; General
Education; Higher Education; Secondary Education;
Statistical Data; Teacher Education

IDENTIFIERS *Albania; UNESCO

ABSTRACT

One of a series of profiles prepared by the Cooperative Educational Abstracting Service, this brief outline provides basic background information on educational principles, system of administration, structure and organization, curricula, and teacher training in Albania. Statistics provided by the Unesco Office of Statistics show enrollment at all levels, from preprimary to adult; number of teachers, including those staffing evening and correspondence courses; population by age groups; public expenditure on education; educational indicators by subject (level enrollment ratio, enrollment in natural and applied sciences at the third level, third level graduates per 10,000 inhabitants ages 20-24, and adult illiteracy rate). An organizational chart of the Ministry of Education and Culture is included. For a description on the general nature of the Country Education Profiles, and for a list of related documents see SO 005 686. (JMB)

ED 075319

International Bureau of Education
Palais Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland

sf005687

United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

Co-operative Educational Abstracting Service (CEAS)

Country Education Profiles

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Date of issue

June 1972

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Country

ALBANIA

General principles

The People's Republic of Albania is at present governed by the Constitution of 1945 (amended in 1950, 1955, 1960 and 1963). Article 28 of the Constitution declares that: "In order to raise the cultural level, the State gives to all classes of the people every chance to attend schools and other cultural institutions. The State is especially concerned with the education of youth. Minors are under the protection of the State. The schools belong to the State. Private schools can be opened only by special permission. Their activities are subject to control by the State. Elementary education is free and compulsory. Schools are separated from the Church."

In accordance with the principles laid down in the Constitution, the law on educational reform of 17 August 1946, declares education to be free, compulsory and general for all children between the ages of 7 and 16. Another important law is that of 1960, which was put into effect in 1963. In particular, it established the eight-year general school in place of the earlier seven-year school.

System of administration

The supreme authority for all categories of schools is the Ministry of Education and Culture. It is responsible for curricula, textbooks and school legislation. The planning of educational and cultural development is closely connected with the planning of economic and social development, and follows the directives issued by the Party of Labour.

Higher educational establishments and vocational training schools are under the direct control of the Ministry, while other schools come under the education and culture sections of the district executive committees of the People's Councils. School supervision is the responsibility of inspectors chosen from among the most competent teachers and school principals.

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Structure and organization

Great importance is attached to pre-primary education for children aged from 3 to 7 years, both in order to inculcate in children from their earliest years loyalty to the country and the Party of Labour and in order to enable mothers to go out to work. Nurseries and kindergartens are available where children are looked after for the day, half the day or as boarders for the whole week. Pre-primary institutions are financed by the Government or by industrial or agricultural undertakings, the parents paying according to their means.

The eight-year general school offers both general and polytechnical education; besides studying the general subjects, pupils are required, commencing with the first grade, to gain experience in practical work.

Pupils are encouraged to remain at school beyond the statutory age of 16 and to attend the four-year middle school (thus obtaining twelve years' schooling). The latter extends the education received in the eight-year school, while laying still more emphasis on the polytechnical and vocational aspects. Alternatively, pupils who have completed the eight-year course can enter one of the lower technical-vocational training schools where they are taught a trade. Higher vocational training is provided in "technicums" or middle technical-vocational schools.

The first State establishment of higher education was the Institute of Education founded in Tirana in 1946. From 1951 on, four more polytechnical institutes were opened : those of economics, medicine, agriculture and law. Finally, in 1957, the State University was set up in Tirana.

The fiscal year begins in January. The academic year, divided into three terms, lasts from September to June, except in the case of mountainous areas which are almost inaccessible in winter, when it begins in March and lasts until the end of November.

In the eight-year general schools, the weekly number of hours of instruction varies between 24 and 29 in the first four classes, rising to 34 in the final classes. In the middle schools, the weekly total is 36.

Curricula

The Department of Studies and School Publications is

responsible for preparing and reforming curricula in consultation with the teaching profession. In addition to the curricula established at the central level, there are also local curricula in respect of courses which are organized by the education authorities in the districts.

During the first four years of schooling, considerable emphasis is placed on the Albanian language and mathematics. During the next four years, the emphasis is laid on science. Civics, which used to be taught as a separate subject in the 8th year, now forms an integral part of the history course beginning in the 4th year and of the geography course beginning in the 5th year, as well as being included in practical out-of-school activities.

During the first four years, one hour a week at least must be devoted to practical or "socially useful" out-of-school activities. From the 5th to the 8th year, increasing importance is attached to such activities, to organized visits to undertakings and to practical training courses in various workshops.

With regard to teaching methods, teachers are recommended to observe the following principles : (a) there must be active participation, involving the awareness of the pupils in the process of learning; (b) school must be connected with life and work by requiring the pupils to undertake practical activities; (c) the school materials selected must be appropriate to the characteristics of the subject taught; (d) the teaching approach must be adapted to the pupils' age, especially in the case of science, which requires a method emphasizing observation, demonstration and experimentation. Free discussion in class is especially encouraged.

No yearly examinations are held in the primary classes. Promotion from one class to the next is based on the marks obtained by pupils during the year. Those who fail in the Albanian language and in mathematics are required to repeat the year. From the 5th year onwards, pupils are promoted on the basis on their final marks at the end of the year. Those failing in more than two subjects are required to repeat the year.

In addition, pupils are obliged, in the course of their schooling, to take the following external examinations set by the Ministry of Education and Culture; (1) a "class examination", at the end of the four primary years; (2) an "examination of freedom", at the end of the eight-year course of the

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general schools; (3) an "examination of maturity" at the end of the middle school course.

Teacher training

Students wishing to become primary school teachers (for the first four years of general school) follow a four-year course in teacher training schools to which they have access upon completion of the eight-year course of the general school. Teachers for the upper four years (of the incomplete course of secondary education) qualify in two-year teacher training institutes, and middle school teachers in four-year teacher training institutes or at the university.

The education bureaux organize various in-service teacher training activities and the exchange of teaching experience. Occasional summer schools are also organized, as well as one-year advanced training courses designed to enable teachers to improve their qualifications.

Bibliography

Thomas, J.I., *Education for Communism. School and State in the People's Republic of Albania*. Stanford, California, Hoover Institution Press, 1969. 131 p., figs. bibl. (Hoover Institution Studies, 22)

STATISTICS : ALBANIA

(Source : Unesco Office of Statistics)

Estimated population 1970 : 2.168.000
 Area (Km2) : 28 748
 Innabitants per Km2 : 75

1. ENROLMENT

Level of education	1965	1968	1969
<u>Pre-primary</u>			
MF.....	24 987	33 137	40 257
F	...	...	...
<u>First level (1)</u>			
MF.....	348 474	439 667	465 875
F	162 572	204 941	220 625
<u>Second level (1)</u>			
MF.....	45 626	45 250	51 438
F	17 560	18 394	19 719
<u>Third level (2)</u>			
MF.....	12 761	16 649	23 180
F	2 786	4 943	7 520
<u>Special education</u>			
MF.....	-	-	-
F	-	-	-
<u>Adult education (3)</u>			
MF.....	22 402	...	...
F	6 083	...	...

1) Enrolment refers to regular courses only. In 1965, education at the first level covers grades I-VII and general education at the second level grades VIII-XII. In 1968 and 1969, data refer to grades I-VIII and IX-XII respectively.

2) Including evening and correspondence courses.

3) General education at the first and second levels only.

2. TEACHERS

Level of education	1965	1968	1969
<u>Pre-primary</u>			
MF.....	1 125	1 399	1 865
F	1 125	1 399	1 865
<u>First level (1)</u>			
MF.....	12 980	16 872	17 915
F	5 795	8 204	8 685
<u>Second level (1)</u>			
MF.....	2 116	1 827	1 902
F	560	498	530
<u>Third level (2)</u>			
MF.....	517	614	827
F	87	87	130
<u>Special education</u>			
MF.....	-	-	-
F	-	-	-
<u>Adult education</u>			
MF.....	...	...	...
F	...	...	...

1) Teaching staff include evening and correspondence courses. In 1965, education at the first level covers grades I-VII and general education at the second level grades VIII-XII. In 1968 and 1969, data refer to grades I-VIII and IX-XII respectively.

2) Including evening and correspondence courses.

3. POPULATION

In thousands

Population by age groups	1965		1970	
	Total	Female	Total	Female
Total population	1 903	944	2 169	1 073
0 - 4	321	157	327	159
5 - 14	497	245	592	290
15 - 19	170	84	216	107
20 - 24	155	76	168	83

4. PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

Currency : Lek

In thousands

Item	1965		
Exchange rate in US \$	0.20		
<u>Public expenditure on education</u>			
Total	342 010		
Recurring	...		
Capital	...		

5. EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS BY SUBJECT

Subject	1965	1968	1969
<u>Level enrolment ratios</u>			
First and second levels combined (age group : 1965 = 7-17 1968, 1969 = 7-18)	81	83	87
First level (age group : 1965 = 7-13 1968, 1969 = 7-14)	103	103	105
Second level (1) (age group : 1965 = 14-17 1968, 1969 = 15-18)	31	28	30
Third level (1) (age group : 20-24)	8.23	10.23	14.02

Subject	1965	1967	1969
<u>Education at the third level : Natural and applied Sciences * as a percentage of total enrolment (1)</u>	41.5	48.0	39.4

* Natural and applied sciences (i.e. Natural Sciences, Engineering, Medical Science and Agriculture).

1) Including evening and correspondence courses.

5. EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS BY SUBJECT
(Cont'd)

Subject	1965	1968	1969
<u>Third level</u> <u>graduates per</u> <u>10 000 inhabitants</u> <u>aged 20-24</u>	111.1	120.4	124.1

Subject	1950	1955
<u>Adult illiteracy</u> <u>rate</u> (population 9 years and over)		
Total	53.8	28.5
Male	41.2	20.1
Female	67.0	36.9

